

Relief Act. The purpose of this legislation is to update the 1940 Act to strengthen the protections it provides to those serving in the military. H.R. 100 also updates the language in the Act so that it is easier to understand.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 3024, which amends the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, to provide protections to servicemembers who terminate motor vehicle or residential leases entered into before permanent change or station or deployment orders for motor vehicle leases. I am pleased that H.R. 3024 was included in the compromise worked out by the House and Senate in its revision of the 1940 Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. I believe it is an important and necessary addition to the current law.

The men and women of the National Guard and Reserves continue to answer the call. We must not short change them in any way when they are called to serve. They should be allowed to terminate their automobile leases without penalty.

Again, I thank the Members in both the House and Senate for including this provision in the final package. I also want to thank the Auto Alliance for its input and cooperation in helping to craft this bill. As a current member of the U.S. Army Reserves and Co-Chair of the Guard and Reserve Caucus, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 100.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 100.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maine?

There was no objection.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, your committee appointed to inform the President that the House is ready to adjourn and to ask him if he has any further communications to make to the House has performed that duty. The President has directed us to say that he has no further communications to make to the House.

HONORING BARBER CONABLE

(Mr. LEACH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness I would like to formally report to the House the passing of one of our most distinguished Members of the 20th century, Barber Conable of New York.

Barber retired from the House over a decade ago, so many current Members

are not familiar with Barber except by his reputation.

Let me just stress that Barber Conable was the quintessential public servant. In Congress he was an expert on all matters of taxation. He led the Republican Party on the Committee on Ways and Means, rising to be the ranking member. He was identified with particular issues such as reductions in capital gains, also for the development of revenue sharing.

Prior to serving in the Congress, he was in the United States Military, having served in both World War II and the Korean conflict, and he rose to the rank of Colonel. After leaving the Congress of the United States, where he, by the way, had been a close friend of the former President of the United States, George Bush, he was appointed to head the World Bank. He came to be known as a leader of the bank as interested for the world environment as well as for world economic growth.

All of us in life have been privileged to have mentors. I would just simply say in this body this Member never considered anyone more a model legislator and mentor than Barber Conable. He was simply the most decent, the most thoughtful, the most intelligent, and the least political individual I have served with.

To his wife, Charlotte, and family, I know I speak for many Members who are friends and staff on this Hill in extending our shared grief and best wishes.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3151 AND H.R. 3583

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3151 and H.R. 3583.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

HONORING EDWIN PENCE

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, those of us on the Democratic side of the aisle, when we arrived today, we were missing a familiar and friendly face. Ed Pence has been a loyal and valued servant to this country for 25 years. He has reached out to numerous people and he will be greatly missed. He retires at the end of this year.

In October of 1978, Ed joined the Capitol Police Force and dedicated over 20 years to protecting our safety and that of the visiting public. He is respected throughout the Capitol because of his professionalism, his compassion, and his friendly nature.

Ed also had a brief stint in the gentleman from Missouri's (Mr. GEPHARDT) office before joining the Ser-

geant of Arms Office as a trusted member of the Chamber security staff.

During this time, Ed has proven himself a trusted source of knowledge by monitoring floor activity and advising Members on upcoming votes. Ed was the man we turned to when we were planning our day or asking questions about the procedures of the day.

Mr. Speaker, Ed's dedication, work ethic, and devotion to this institution is worthy of the highest commendation. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ed Pence on his well-deserved retirement, thanking him for his service, and wishing him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, consistent with the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 8, 2003.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Mr. Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

If Mr. Vans should not be able to act in my behalf for any reason, then Mr. Daniel J. Strodel, Assistant to the Clerk, or Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk, should similarly perform such duties under the same conditions as are authorized by this designation.

These designations shall remain in effect for the 108th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.

moot and no Rule VIII determinations are required.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO DISPENSE WITH ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS ON ANY DAY HOUSE CONVENES PURSUANT TO SECTION 2 OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on any day when the House convenes pursuant to section 2 of House Joint Resolution 80, the Speaker may dispense with organizational and legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HONORABLE FRANK PALLONE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Paul Dement, District Director of the Honorable FRANK PALLONE, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 24, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey, Ocean County.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to notify the party that issued the subpoena that I do not have any responsive documents.

Sincerely,

PAUL DEMENT,
District Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE WALTER B. JONES OF NORTH CAROLINA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable WALTER B. JONES of North Carolina, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of Pender County, North Carolina.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that, because I received the subpoena after the date requested for testimony, the subpoena is

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

COMMENDING JUDY W. STEVENS FOR HER WORK AND DEDICATION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and praise an individual who has dedicated herself to improving North Carolina. Judy Stevens is a remarkable person in many ways, and I want to acknowledge her accomplishments and efforts in economic development.

Judy grew up in Star, North Carolina, located in Montgomery County. She attended East Montgomery High School and continued her education at Randolph Community College. She is a certified economic developer from the Economic Development Institute, which is administered by the University of Oklahoma.

Judy began her work in the economic development field when she accepted a job as administrative assistant for the director of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation in 1992. With her strong knowledge of the county and its people, combined with her knowledge of economic development, she quickly excelled at her job; so fast, that by 1993 she became the director of the EDC.

Any good leader knows that success depends upon the efforts of many. Judy created the Committee of 100, a group of business leaders throughout the county who were willing to invest time and money in recruiting new businesses to Montgomery County. Long-term success depends on future leadership. She established the Leadership Montgomery Program for Adults and Youth through the Montgomery County Chamber of Congress, which is currently in its 10th year.

Judy Stevens is someone who understands that economic development success requires cooperation across political jurisdictional lines. In her own county, Judy is currently working on a project to develop a regional wastewater system for the towns of Boscpe, Star, and Troy. In the past, this type of cooperation was not common. However, with Judy's determination and leadership, folks are willing to come to the table and work for the good of the entire area.

Most recently, Judy has taken on a much larger task by leading the eighth

district's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, CEDS, project. CEDS is a program sponsored by the Economic Development Administration, which seeks to develop a regional plan of action to attract investment and to create jobs. The committee is comprised of local economic development, education, and chamber officials.

Judy has worked tirelessly with the members of the CEDS committee to develop a final recommendation to present to EDA. I am pleased to tell you that because of her effort and strong leadership, the community has come to consensus on a proposal that will serve as a blueprint for regional economic development for the Eighth District of North Carolina and the rest of the country. I look forward to working with her and the CEDS committee as we put this plan into action.

Judy's hard work and talent have been recognized across the State. In 1999, she was named Economic Developer of the Year for North Carolina by the North Carolina Economic Developers Association. This recognition displays the type of commitment and dedication Judy puts into her job and into her community.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Judy Stevens' tireless dedication and her desire to increase the quality of life for Montgomery County, the eighth district, and North Carolina as a whole. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help create and sustain economic development; and as a citizen of North Carolina, I join many in sincerely thanking her.

I would also like to acknowledge Judy's family that has been there backing her in every effort and success. Judy has a loving family. The Stevens family includes her husband, Gerald, along with their two sons, a daughter, and three grandsons. I am sure they are as proud as I am of her many accomplishments and her dedication to her profession.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, PhRMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush signed the Medicare bill today, ending an ugly legislative process driven by the interests of a constituency near and dear to the Republican leadership in this House. Not America's seniors. I am talking about the prescription drug industry.

The vast quantities of time and money that the drug companies invested in selling this bill were well spent. This bill is a Christmas wish come true for every drug manufacturer in our Nation. Under the new bill, drug industry profits are expected to increase by \$140 billion, a 40 percent increase in already the world's most profitable industry.

This industry, the world's most profitable industry, successfully used its